

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 are pending.

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

registering a first user ~~that maintains~~ associated with a first client machine and a second user ~~that maintains~~ associated with a second client machine with a discovery machine;

determining by said discovery machine whether said first user will accept a communication from said second user;

~~when if~~ if said first user will accept said communication, ~~causing~~ establishing a direct link ~~to be established~~ between said first client machine and said second client machine to deliver said communication in which said direct link:

~~when if~~ if established is configured such that said communication is not delivered through said discovery machine; and

is not established ~~when if~~ if said first user will not accept said communication.

2. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said direct link is caused to be closed after said communication is delivered.

3. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein if said first user is not available to receive said communication, said communication is stored by said discovery machine until said first user becomes available.

4. **(currently amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a new direct link is ~~caused to be~~ established between said second client machine and said first client machine to communicate a new communication.
5. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 4, wherein a thread of related previous communications is prefixed to said new communication.
6. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first user and said second user maintains a plurality of contact information.
7. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein an individual entry in said plurality of contact information is automatically updated when an associated user of said individual entry updates a corresponding entry locally at a client machine of said associated user.
8. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and said second user via a web page interface coupled to said discovery machine.
9. **(original)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and second user through a simple mail transfer protocol via said discovery machine.

10. (original) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein at least one of said first user and second user can selectively block said new communication.

11. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein a one-directional communication link is sent to said third user when at least one of said first and said second user replies to said new communication and wherein said one-directional communication link allows said third user to send a future communication directly to said first or second user.

12. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein determining that said first user will accept said communication includes storing notification of said communication if said first user is unavailable.

13. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said discovery machine is a central server.

Claim 14-32 (cancelled).

33. (currently amended) One or more computer readable tangible media ~~comprising~~ having computer-executable instructions stored thereon that, if executed by a discovery machine, cause the discovery machine to perform a method comprising that are executable on a discovery machine to:

registering a first user ~~that maintains~~ associated with a first client machine and a second user ~~that maintains~~ associated with a second client machine;

determineing whether said first user will accept a communication from said second user; and

~~when-if~~ said first user will accept said communication, ~~cause~~ establishing a direct link ~~to be established~~ between said first client machine and said second client machine in order to deliver said communication in which said direct link:

~~when-if~~ established, is configured such that said communication is not delivered through said discovery machine; and

is not established ~~when-if~~ said first user will not accept said communication.

34. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~ or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein said direct link is caused to be closed after said communication is delivered.

35. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~ or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the instruction are executable such that if said first user is not available to receive said communication, said communication is stored by said discovery machine until said first user becomes available.

36. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~ or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the instruction are executable such that a new direct link is caused to be established between said second client machine and said first client machine to communicate a new communication.

37. **(currently amended)** The one ~~One~~-or more computer readable media as recited in claim 36, wherein the instruction are executable such that a thread of related previous communications is prefixed to said new communication.

38. **(currently amended)** The one ~~One~~-or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein at least one of said first user and said second user maintains a plurality of contact information.

39. **(currently amended)** The one ~~One~~-or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the instructions are executable such that an individual entry in said plurality of contact information is automatically updated when an associated user of said individual entry updates a corresponding entry locally at a client machine of said associated user.

40. **(currently amended)** The one ~~One~~-or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the instructions are executable such that a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and said second user via a web page interface coupled to said discovery machine.

41. **(currently amended)** The one ~~One~~-or more computer readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein the instructions are executable such that a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and second user through a simple mail transfer protocol via said discovery machine.

42. **(currently amended)** ~~The one~~ One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 41, wherein at least one of said first user and second user can selectively block said new communication.

43. **(currently amended)** ~~The one~~ One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 41, wherein the instruction are executable such that a one-directional communication link is sent to said third user ~~when-if~~ at least one of said first and said second user replies to said new communication wherein said one-directional communication link allows said third user to send a future communication directly to said first or second user.

44. **(currently amended)** One or more servers comprising a discovery machine configured to:

register a first user ~~that maintains~~ associated with a first client machine and a second user ~~that maintains~~ associated with a second client machine;

determine whether said first user will accept a communication from said second user; and

~~when-if~~ said first user will accept said communication, ~~cause~~ establishing a direct link ~~to be established~~ between said first client machine and said second client machine in order to deliver said communication in which said direct link:

~~when-if~~ established is configured such that said communication is not delivered through said discovery machine; and

is not established ~~when-if~~ said first user will not accept said communication.

45. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein said direct link is caused to be closed after said communication is delivered.

46. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein if said first user is not available to receive said communication, said communication is stored by said discovery machine until said first user becomes available.

47. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein a new direct link is caused to be established between said second client machine and said first client machine to communicate a new communication.

48. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 47, wherein a thread of related previous communications is prefixed to said new communication.

49. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein at least one of said first user and said second user maintains a plurality of contact information.

50. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 49, wherein an individual entry in said plurality of contact information is

automatically updated when an associated user of said individual entry updates a corresponding entry locally at a client machine of said associated user.

51. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and said second user via a web page interface coupled to said discovery machine.

52. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 51, wherein a third user can initiate a new communication to at least one of said first and second user through a simple mail transfer protocol via said discovery machine.

53. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 51, wherein at least one of said first user and second user can selectively block said new communication.

54. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 53, wherein a directional communication link is sent to said third user when at least one of said first and said second user replies to said new communication wherein said one-directional communication link allows said third user to send a future communication directly to said first or second user.

55. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein the discovery machine is further configured to store notification of said communication if said first user is unavailable.

56. (currently amended) The one ~~One~~-or more servers as recited in claim 44, wherein the discovery machine is configured as a central server.